PENDING CLAIMS

This listing of claims reflect the claims pending in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 7. Canceled.

8. (Previously Presented) A method of tracking images, said method comprising:

placing an image sensor in a image capturing device, said image sensor having a plurality of intentionally modified transistors that form an identifier;

capturing an image with said image capturing device, wherein the identifier comprises encoded sensor identification data for use in identifying the specific sensor from which the image had been captured;

processing said image such that said identifier is decoded from said image to produce sensor identification data; and

storing said sensor identification data with said image.

9. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein said image capturing device is a digital camera.

10. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein said image capturing device is a video camera.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for capturing images, said apparatus comprising:

a lens, said lens for controlling amount of light entering said apparatus;

an image sensor having a plurality of transistors, said transistor for creating electrical currents in proportion to an intensity of light received, and said sensor having an identifier embedded within a subset of said transistors, wherein the identifier comprises encoded sensor identification data for use in specifically identifying the image sensor from which images have been captured by said image sensor;

an analog-to-digital converter coupled to said image sensor, said converter for converting analog electrical signals to digital signals; and

a digital signal processor coupled to said analog-to digital converter, said processor for manipulating said digital signals, wherein said manipulation comprises decoding the identifier to produce decoded sensor identification data.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11 further comprising ~~of~~ a data storage device for storing the decoded sensor identification data and the captured images separately.

13. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program, the computer program being executable by a computer to perform:

processing data from an image capturing device;

extracting identifier data from an intentionally formed encoded identifier from said data;

decoding the extracted identifier data to form decoded sensor identification data for identifying images captured by said image capturing device, while deterring the capability of fraudulently modifying the sensor identification data by users;

assembling an image from said data; and

storing said decoded sensor identification data and said image, separately.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program as claimed in claim 13 wherein extracting identifier data further comprises:

reading values of a known subset of pixels from said data; and

assembling and decoding said values into decoded sensor identification data.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program as claimed in claim 13 wherein assembling an image from said data further comprises:

interpolating a new pixel value for each pixel storing a piece of said encoded identifier; and

replacing original pixel value for each of said pixels with a new pixel value.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program as claimed in claim 13 wherein storing said decoded sensor identification data and said image comprises placing said decoded sensor identification data and said image into an image frame and saving said image frame.

17. (Original) The computer readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program as claimed in claim 13 wherein said image capturing device is a digital camera.

18. (Previously Presented) A digital processing system having a processor operable to perform a method comprising:

processing data from an image capturing device;

extracting an intentionally formed encoded identifier from said data, wherein the encoded identifier comprises encoded device identification data for use in identifying the specific image capturing device from which the image had been captured;

assembling an image from said data;

decoding the encoded device identification data to form a decoded device identification data; and

storing said decoded device identification data and said image.

19. (Previously Presented) The digital processing system claimed in claim 18 wherein said step of extracting an encoded identifier further comprises:

reading values of a known subset of pixels from said data; and

assembling said values into the encoded device identification data.

20. (Previously Presented) The digital processing system claimed in claim 18 wherein said step of assembling an image further comprises:

interpolating a new pixel value for each pixel storing a piece of said encoded identifier; and

replacing original pixel value for each of said pixels with a new pixel value.

21. (Previously Presented) The digital processing system as claimed in claim 18 wherein said step of storing said decoded device identification data and said image comprises placing said decoded device identification data and said image into a image frame and saving said image frame.

22. (Original) The digital processing system as claimed in claim 18 wherein said image capturing device is a digital camera.